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American Embassy
Islamabad, Pakistan

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

NO. 12065: GDS 8/19/80 (SHERMAN, R.) C-1
SUBJECT: Hazara Dissident Activities
PARTICIPANTS: Wali Beg, President, Alliance of Muslim Tribes
for Afghanistan
Rick Sherman, Acting Political Counselor
DATE & PLACE: September 19, 1979 - American Embassy
COPIES TO: ISLAMABAD - AMB, DCM, POL-1, SPEC 1, DM
BIO-1, ECON, ICA, ODRP, P
AMEMBASSIES - KARACHI, LAHORE, PESHAWAR
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~~TEHRAN~~
STATE - DES/PAS, INR/DDR/RNA/SCA, DIA/IL/W

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Sayar Mohammad Asif Khan, Pretence Chief of the Hazaras in Baluchistan and presently MEI Deputy Chief of Protocol at Quetta, phoned me September 17 requesting an appointment for Wali Beg. I agreed to see the Hazara leader if he came to Islamabad. He came September 19 with an interpreter and two silent colleagues.

Wali Beg explained he is the president of the first Hazara Afghan dissident organization to be formed here in Pakistan. The group is headquartered in Quetta from where they run operations in central Afghanistan. Unlike the dissident leaders headquartered in Peshawar, Wali Beg firmly believes he should have minimal people around his base and a maximum number fighting the enemy. He claims to have sent "hundreds" of his followers back to the Hazara area of Afghanistan from the "safehaven" of Baluchistan.

On his relations with the groups in Peshawar, Wali Beg said he cooperates and communicates with all (except Hezb-e-Islami) but that they have no operations in common. Of the Peshawar leaders Beg knows Gailani and Mohammed Nuri Hezvi; the latter having been a fellow parliamentarian in the 1970s. Beg does not seem to trust fully any of the non-Hazaras.

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"In Afghanistan there are six million Hazaras, all of whom are actively fighting the DRA," Beg said. Those Hazaras in the DRA military have turned on their commanders and hundreds have defected to Beg's forces. Another 1600 officers and men have been dismissed from the DRA Army, disarmed and arrested as potential security risks, he added.

Beg made the standard pitch for U.S.G. assistance to his group -- received the standard polite turn-down -- and expressed his appreciation for the American people's moral support for the rights of all men. He lamented the lack of any material support to accompany the sentiment.

Wali Beg did not think the Taraki fall from grace is significant. He sees Amin as "even worse." He also commented that as winter comes his Hazara forces will have increasing advantage over DRA forces and he expects to be able to deliver some major blows to the Kabul regime through the forthcoming winter.

BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION:

Wali Beg says he was a two-term Member of Parliament during the Zaher Shah regime. He represented a constituency centered at Nawar in Ghazni. He appears to be in his early forties, muscular and physically fit. His colleagues appeared equally capable and tough and all exhibited the ethnic arrogance for which the Hazara are known. They give the impression of being intelligent and thoughtful as well.

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